

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College  
Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number: HIS 280**

**Credits: 3**

**Course Title:** American Foreign Policy since 1890

**Course Description**

Examines American foreign policy since 1890 with an emphasis on current events and diverse points of view. Prerequisites: English placement recommendation for ENG 111 and satisfactory completion of ENG 4 if required by reading placement test. Prerequisite or co-requisite: ENG 5 and/or ENG 107 if recommended by reading placement test. Lecture 3 hours per week

**General Course Purpose**

The course investigates the relations and policies of the United States with regard to other countries and world events. It is designed to provide in-depth experience that reviews and evaluates American foreign policy. Instructors will invite knowledgeable foreign policy specialists to the classroom. This course will satisfy a general education social/behavioral science elective.

**Course Objectives**

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to

1. Evaluate the major American doctrines in foreign policy since the 1890's such as idealism, realism, and neo-realism, and apply these doctrines to major historic events in US foreign policy.
2. Evaluate the major historic interpretations of US foreign policy since the 1890's, such as the nationalist, hard realist, soft realist, and the radical and moderate revisionist interpretations.
3. Compare and contrast the different philosophical approaches of US secretary of states to US involvement in world affairs.
4. Discuss foreign policy issues with policy makers, and specialists.

**Major Topics to be Included**

- a. Europe, America, and World War I
- b. US foreign policy between the two major world wars
- c. US foreign policy and the cold war
- d. US foreign policy in the aftermath of the cold war
- e. The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and US foreign policy

**Effective Date of Course Content Summary:** August 16, 2011